Patent Application
Docket No. P14617US

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for his report. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 12-15 are currently pending in the application.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Cowden et al. (WO 00/65773), hereinafter referred to as Cowden, in view of Kim (US 6,546,002). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, independent claims 12 and 14 were amended to better point out some aspects of the invention and hoping to expedite prosecution.

Independent claim 12 now relates to a method for updating a profile of a user in a data communications network comprising a plurality of entities. Among them is a profile storage that stores the user's profile and also stores a list of all on-line entities that store the user's profile. Upon updating at least a portion of the user's profile in the entity of the user, the profile storage receives at least the updated portion of the user's profile and stores it. The profile storage further retrieves a list of all on-line entities that store the profile now updated and sends at least the updated portion of the user's profile to each entity on the retrieved list.

Cowden relates to a portal interfacing with information and services accessible over a communications network. Concerning the subscriber information, which could be assimilated in some ways to the profiles of the present invention, Cowden teaches that a server (portal system) maintains the subscriber information, which can be downloaded to the client system and maintained in a cache. The cached copy could then be uploaded to the server periodically. (Page 29, lines 15-36). Cowden also teaches how a monitor component, executed as one or more applications on the local server, can monitor, process and maintain the data information and requests received by the server. The monitor component may update the subscriber information in the server by, for instance, analyzing the subscriber's actions. (page 31, lines 25-33).

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Kim relates to mobile menu-interface agent. In relation to the present invention, teaches how a profile manager maintains profile data related to user in a server database. The profile data needs to be cached from a sever to a device's local database before being used/modified. The profile is updated and synchronized between the device's database and the server database. (Column 7, line 31 - column 8 line 6). Profile data is stored in two locations: the server database and one local database. (Column 7 lines 38-43). Each profile data is maintained in the cache of only one device at a time.

As can be readily appreciated, a profile, in Cowden and Kim, may be synchronized locally between a device and a server, but portions thereof are never further updated toward other devices of a same user. Furthermore, the device and the profile are not associated to the same user, as in the present case. Cowden and Kim do not teach how to store a list of all on-line entities associated to the same user and how to retrieve this list in order to send at least an updated portion of the user's profile to all the entities listed thereon. As mentioned earlier, Cowden only suggests uploading the previously downloaded profile to the server on a periodic basis (page 29, lines 15-19) and Kim clearly indicates that "profile data 138a, 138b are stored in **two locations**; in the database master and also in the local database in a form of a « cached » copy" (emphasis added). Moreover, Cowden and Kim do not teach to send the updated portions of the user's profile to any other on-line device of the user. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 12 and its dependent claim 13 are patentable over Cowden in view of Kim and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Independent claim 14 has been further amended and now relates to a profile storage in a data communications network. The profile storage is capable of storing a user's profile and a list of on-line entities that store the profile of the same user. It is further capable of receiving at least an updated portion of the profile from an entity of the same user and storing the updated portions of the user's profile before retrieving the list of on-line entities that store the user's profile and sending at least the updated portions of the user's profile to each entity on the retrieved list

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As cab be appreciated, the technical features of independent claim 14 can readily be assimilated to those of independent claim 12. Therefore, the same reasoning brought forth in favor of claim 12 can be applied to claims 14. Consequently, Applicants submit that independent claim 14 and its dependent claim 15 are patentable over Cowden in view of Kim and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.
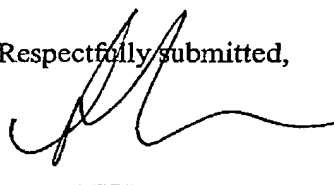
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for favourable action.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss the present amendment or present patent application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (514) 345-7900 ext. 2596.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2005/02/14

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